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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

APRIL, 1910

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Don't forget---

...The Rose Show...

First week in May

The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association

FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR FIVE CENTS PER COPY

Vol. 1 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, APRIL, 1910 No. 10

San Diego has raised that million dollars for the 1915 Exposition that San Francisco does not want her to hold, she has put up another big purse to make sure the Grant Hotel shall be opened on time and in style, and it has rained. Now What? The Floral Association proposes to hold its second Spring Rose Show the end of April. In preparing for former exhibitions the Association has turned loose an energetic committee who have solicited prizes to be given at these events. It has not the face to do so this time. If it be true that constant dropping will wear away a stone, the good nature of the people of San Diego, which is not in the least stony, must be in a weary condition with the strain of solicitations to subscribe or donate to this, that or the other very worthy object it is true, that has arisen as the result of the awakening civic consciousness of the community.

The Floral Association has no funds to purchase prizes, so that though declining to join the band with a subscription list, it will not refuse to accept any offers of assistance in this direction. Habits are easily formed it is said, and further that men are creatures of habit, it would seem then that many of San Diego's good citizens have become pretty habitual givers. There is no desire to throw obstacles in the way of such desiring to continue in their mode of living or giving rather.

The value of the exhibitions held by the San Diego Floral Association, is recognized by the City as a whole, for it has supported them with an ever increasing attendance and the list of donated prizes has always been most munificent. This year the exhibition will be held two or three weeks earlier while many visitors are still with us. It would seem too bad not to have the prize table the equal of its predecessors.

Should there be any disposed to make donations towards the prize list either of money or suitable articles, any of the officers of the Association whose names appear on the back cover page of the magazine, or The Flower Shop on 4th street between C and B will be glad to receive the same and give any further information.

Eucalyptus for the 1915 Exposition

Now the completion of the million dollar subscription towards the Fair for 1915 marks another big step towards its realization, Califor-

nia Garden desires to make a suggestion which should be considered in relation to the making of the plans for the grounds. Why not make a eucalyptus display grown for the occasion one of the features? There are upward of two hundred named varieties of this species most of them of rapid growth and easy culture. It is possible by starting at once to grow avenues and groves from stock that need not cost to exceed two dollars a hundred. There are in the city respectable avenues of more than one variety only two years old averaging close to twenty feet with six inch trunks.

The attention of the world and particularly the Western slope of North America is much centred on the eucalyptus as the best possible means of replacing our diminishing timber supply. Among the many varieties can be found timber to meet the exactions of every use, almost if not quite, to which timber is put. Possibly in no part of this country can the many varieties be so generally grown successfully as in San Diego.

To be able to advertise a growing eucalyptus display combined with an exhibition of finished products of the timber would attract many interested visitors. The sight of the growing trees plainly labelled with name and date of planting, etc. would be a convincing proof of the geniality of this climate.

The Acacia is another family that might well be considered also in this connection.

Rambling Ideas About Fertilizers

A. D. ROBINSON

It may be regarded by some as rather a malodorous subject for a ramble—about fertilizers—but certain letters have arrived and verbal queries been made, that seem to compel me to take this stroll. Moreover we have the unimpeachable evidence of Mark Twain to the effect that in certain parts of Europe the status of the inhabitants is judged by the size of the pile of fertilizer at the front door.

What kind to use is the most frequent query and I unhesitatingly recommend for San Diego, the stable manure used as fresh as you like, only provided that there is moisture enough to prevent heating. Get it under the surface as soon as possible to prevent evaporation of the essences, but don't put it directly against any plant or shrub. Trenching and covering the manure in the trenches at once is an excellent summer method, particularly if the trench be run full of water before covering with earth. As to why preference is given to stable manure. This is not a country of vegetable decay. The growth of the winter and spring dries up in the summer and blows away in the fall, consequently most soils are lacking in the humus quality and this the stable manure supplies, and its bulk helps to loosen up the soil and counteract its tendency to run together and bake when irrigated. Why use it fresh? Because in this country there is no such thing as well-rotted manure. It is either leached to death or dried to

a worse condition. The fine sifted stuff that is sold you for your lawn and that spread so even and beautifully is a dessicated deception. Your lawn has asked for an egg and you have offered it a stone.

It is possible to cure a manure heap in good shape, but I have never seen it done, as it requires more attention than an incubator to keep it just moist enough and not too moist.

The chicken contribution is very valuable but concentrated and should be used very carefully. It is a good practice to mix it with 3 times its bulk of soil as it is collected. It has proved a valuable addition to this commodity to use slacked lime on the floor of the chicken houses, the mixture being very good, most of our soils lacking lime.

The commercial fertilizers have volumes printed on their merits and they are easier to handle, less obtrusive and give good results especially with plants like carnations which absolutely refuse to live if stable manure is brought in their neighborhood, However experimental stations warn us that the mere mixing of the ingredients raises their selling price several hundred per cent.

In applying fertilizers it should be borne in mind that they are actually detrimental when a plant is dormant or dry. That in a leachy soil where irrigation is practised the valuable part of a fertilizer is soon used after its application or washed out of a plant's reach. Hence three, or at least two applications in a season are indicated.

What to use for potted plants, ferns particularly. For good success with potted plants a fertilizer is a necessity. Ferns respond to sulphate of ammonia very gratefully. Nitrate of soda gives a good color but a weak though rank growth, and this new preparation, Bonora, is proving acceptable. All of them should be used little and often, a teaspoonful to a gallon of water is a great sufficiency. Never use any of them when a plant is dry, and always water with plain water at least twice between. In our summer, potted plants, in all but the shadiest positions, will often require watering twice a day.

Ferns in growth must never be dry.

This is an age of scientific fertilizing, by bacillus and all sorts of methods. We are leaving behind the times when foulness meant richness, and carrion was eagerly sought for burial at the foot of our pet grape vine, making us sort of buzzards by proxy at the vintage. Roses were considered to be especially fond of bones and the jawbone of an ass was supposed to be a tit bit in the embrace of its fibrous roots. The writer used to be told that these roots would surround a very large bone and eat it up. He never believed this, having a theory that a plant can only use such elements as are in solution, and so stated to a gentleman, who proved to be a chemist, holding to the direct consumption theory, with the result of being scientifically squelched. Nevertheless, he is not feeding bones in bulk to his roses even now.

Tuberous Begonias

These beautiful flowers which only a few years ago were in the nature of a luxury, have rapidly taken their place as a necessity in every well regulated garden. In garden literature one sees them mentioned side by side with Geraniums as a bedding plant, so easy is their culture and comparatively inexpensive the tubers.

In color the range is greater than that of the Geranium, from white to almost black, but not any blue shades; with individual blooms up to six inches in diameter, the singles being larger and by many thought handsomer than the doubles. The tubers are usually circular in shape with a depression, and this depression marks the top, an important thing to remember in planting.

In this climate, San Diego, they require a northern exposure, doing well in a sheltered bed on that side of the house, or must have partial shade. Under lath they thrive wonderfully making a great growth and flowering continuously for months. They require a rich, well-drained soil, like all begonias delighting in leaf mold, and must never be allowed to suffer for moisture.

Liquid fertilizers applied every three weeks, once they start blooming will do much to maintain the size of flowers.

Being of a succulent, heavy habit of growth, the juncture of the stalk with the tuber being its smallest and weakest part, and the right place for the tuber only half an inch below the surface it is advisable to stake and tie at frequent intervals. As the tubers rot rather easily if kept too moist before they start growth, it is a safe practice to spread them on some moss and keep moist in a warm, rather dark place till they begin to grow when they can be potted or planted out in beds. Though they come readily from seed and will bloom the first season if started very early, this mode of culture is not easy. The seed is as fine as dust and the handling and care of the little seedlings is a most exacting task. The experience of one who has grown them some years in succession, both in pots plunged in the beds and directly in the soil would point to an advantage in the former method, both as to blooms, and ease of handling when maturing the tubers in the fall.

The range of color and form widens every year, and sometime we shall doubtless have a combination of the gorgeous flowers of the tuberous with the gigantic variegated leaves of the Rex variety.

As the tuberous begonia makes a good house plant, there is nothing to prevent a very general use of this most charming flower.

The Garden in April

After K. O. SESSIONS

Owing to a protracted indisposition Miss K. O. Sessions has been unable to prepare her usual article for this month. This will undoubtedly be a great disappointment to many of our readers, and as the next best thing California Garden makes the following extracts from John McLaren's Gardening in California—a work that has as demerits only its price and

the fact that it emanates from San Francisco—a city that would steal San Diego's 1915 Exposition.

A number of bedding plants such as Fuchsias, Geraniums, the earlier Lobelias, Pyrethrums, etc., should now be placed out of doors in sheltered situations. All other bedding plants, as soon as they are the required size, should be gradually hardened off, care being taken not to expose them suddenly from hot green house or hot frame to the open air. It is advisable to keep them under for a week or ten days with the ventilators open both by day and by night, and for the first few days after being placed out of doors they should be shaded during bright sunshine by being covered with some light cheese cloth or similar light shading.

If not already done Cannas and and Phloxes should have their roots taken up and the crowns divided into bunches (two or three stems to each bunch) and planted at once in well enriched loamy soil; plant the Cannas about three feet apart and the Phloxes about eighteen inches.

If the stock of Dahlias is short, cuttings may still be taken. Pot the cuttings singly in two-inch pots and plunge them into a little bottom heat where they will soon take root. These late stock cuttings make excellent late flowering effects, continuing well into November. Shrubs which have been transplanted during the last few months should be closely examined and if the weather be inclined to the dry side, given a good soaking of water at the roots, then they should be well mulched with old manure. Spray them with water late in the afternoon of dry days to encourage the swelling of buds and the making of fresh growth."

The member of the staff of California Garden, who with some embarassment has put on the mantle of Elijah, (he means Miss Sessions), had copied the foregoing as above recited when he realized that he seemed to have a feeling of possible frost and biting winds that must be tempered to the shorn lamb of a seedling coming out of a greenhouse nicely steam heated. Now there are hardly half a dozen greenhouses in San Diego County and no frost or wind except what is positively necessary in the business of that community. However, John McLaren writing for San Francisco must always be more to the point anywhere, than this substitute scribe and so his words are published. It is a fact nevertheless that it has rained just in the nick of time and the plow the hoe and the rake ought to be kept busy, taking care of those things planted in the last three months under the direction of Mistress Sessions, whom the gods restore quickly to resume her mantle which is much too heavy for these shoulders.

My Garden

JEANNETTE L. KNEALE

As by magic, my sun-kissed garden has awakened to the call of Spring, and all the plants are vying as to which shall be first to wear the Regal robes.

VIEW IN GROUNDS OF MRS. THOMAS KNEALE—Madison and New Hampshire Streets

Each garden breathes a new inspiration and brings its own sweet message. Come then, dear friends, and walk in mine that you may learn what it has for you. For me it has a most charming personality and its song is a theme of endless joy and delight.

When I pause to think what I shall first call to your attention I hardly know what demands special notice. The begonias, which are grown in the open on the north side of the house without any extra protection and have been in bloom the whole year, seem worthy of mention, and some of the ferns, too, in a neighboring bed are pretty good specimens.

My violets have given me very generous returns for the time spent last year in their transplanting. The flowers have been most abundant, luxuriant and fragrant.

Then my cactus bed, to me, is quite attractive. A most unusual combination of beauty and ugliness: The plants so spiney, horny and grotesque in the shapes they assume; the flowers most beautiful, so large and magnificent yet so short-lived, lasting but for a few hours, so fragile, so exquisite in shape and color and their perfume so far reaching. The Queen of Night is the most beautiful of all, blooming late in the evening and lasting until sunrise, when she slowly closes in her petals and fades away.

Soon that long promised joy, the lath house, will be a reality, and then, oh then, what specimens of ferns and begonias.

Its trees, the acacia, the pines, the palms, the eucalyptus, the weeping willow, the pepper, and the oak; its shrubs, the hibiscus, the pittosporum, the grevillias, the coprosmas, and the diasma; its roses and its many vines and flowers are very like those that grow in the same profusion in my neighbor's garden.

My birds, the meadow lark, the golden oriole, the red-headed linnets, the wild canary, the mocking bird and the dear little iridescent humming bird—all make their nests in my garden and sing to me the same song that they sing to you. I've the quail in flocks, as perhaps you have, and a pair of road runners. The birds seem to be a part of the garden just as much as my flowers. A cotton plant furnishes the lining to many a little nest. A palm tree near it last year had seven little homes among its leaves.

My garden making has not been all poetry, a goodly admixture of prose has gone with it, for it has had full measure of the cares, perplexities and the demands so common to all gardeners. But are they not out-numbered by its many delightful surprises?

From our summer house we have a most charming, ever changing panoramic view of Mission Valley from the Ocean to the foothills—the Old Mission to the east and Ocean Beach in the western distance.

And in the valley basin, some three hundred feet below us, are the precise, tidy patches of the Chinese vegetable gardens, in all the varying shades of green. The slopes leading down to

these are both beautiful and interesting in their natural growth. The manzanita, the California laurel, the wild lilac and other native shrubs and vines. Many varieties of the wild fern, too, grow in wonderful profusion on these slopes.

"A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!
Rose plot,
Fringed pool,
Ferned grot—
The veriest school
Of peace; and yet the fool
Contends that God is not—
Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?
Nay, but I have a sign;
'Tis very sure God walks in mine."

The Rose in April

E. BENARD

The time for planting dormant stock is past and those who are in that large class of "meant-to's but didn'ts" must now pay for plants in boxes or pots. It is a strange perversion of human nature that in all branches of trade the dilatory purchaser is particularly cared for and now the nursery man grows large quantities of roses in boxes just for his benefit. By paying the price you can still set out your rose garden and have blooms all summer.

The song of the rose for April is cultivate, cultivate, cultivate. From now on till the late summer, the ground round the roses must be kept thoroughly stirred, not just raked off even on top, but pulverized down for from three to six inches, and this is most necessary after each irrigation.

The rain of the 21st of March was most acceptable, but the rosarian who was wise had irrigated his roses some weeks before then. To grow good roses on long stems, the bushes must have plenty of moisture during the growing, any tendency to dryness especially if combined with warmth, will cause the buds to form prematurely and develop inferiority both as to size and color. It is well to remember that it doesn't always rain when it should and even if it does, a somewhat previous irrigation does no harm where the ground drains well.

Those who intend exhibiting at the Rose show to be held at the close of this month should be watching their bushes quite closely. Their motto should be "Not how many but how good" and a few of the most promising shoots only should be left on the smaller plants, and these shoots should be of varying degrees of development, or else there may be an abundance of bloom the week before or the week after show with a desert between at the critical moment.

And now come the aphis and the mildew and the worm. Let the spray be ever ready, the sulphur in the bellows and the thumb and finger in juxtaposition.

Don't be afraid to give a little more fertilizer, if in a liquid form it will be much appreciated, and visit your roses every day with an all-seeing eye, if you want a ribbon.

There are those who never see a well-kept garden without the remark uttered or suppressed out of polite-

ness "But what a lot of work it all means." To those be it said don't grow roses—buy them and by so doing miss nine-tenths of the joy of the rose.

The California April Garden

G. P. HALL

There is so much you already have, if you have followed former suggestions, that it seems only necessary to repeat, just as the father blessed with twins in searching for a name to fit both called one Pete and the other Repeat. You have no doubt all sorts of plants ready to be put out in the open and the March rain has put the soil in condition so you may successfully do the best work in transplanting. Much depends on the method of transplanting; some people seem to try their best to see how much a baby plant will endure. In the first place, they will pull it out as if by the hair of its head, then studiously lay it in the drying sun and wind, perhaps let it remain there some minutes, giving it a tremendous shock from its moist home in the box or bed where it was raised, then perhaps after a lapse of time it may be stuck down into a thimble hole and a little soil pushed around it and then left to struggle for its existence without a particle of shade or protection. Transplanting, both for plants, shrubs or trees, should be done with the greatest care, keeping as many of roots and fibers intact and uncut as it is possible to do, and the ground should be especially prepared, fined, and if not moist enough water should be given the plant as soon as it is placed in its prospective home. Tomatoes, celery, cabbage, beets and all movable vegetables should be put where they will have room to expand without crowding and far enough apart to suit the method of cultivation you intend to pursue, either with horse cultivator or by hand or junior cultivators. Be sure and give tomato and egg plants plenty of room; they make a wide spread of root system, and under ground travel a considerable distance to reach out for food, especially if there is not a good supply close at hand. Peppers, corn, melon vines and cucumbers, all need plenty of room if you have it; if not, you must feed well in the narrow space you have and train in upright directions, trained to stakes; upright tomatoes never get the ill will of the police department.

If you have not provided yourself with plenty of young plants and must now depend on seed, lose no time in getting busy in the kitchen garden. Give especial attention to the peas and beans, they will be the delicacy for the next several months; in fact, if you plan and plant you will not be

classed among the "might-have-beens," but you will have a crop from now till next December, and if you have pole Limas well started, on through the winter. Beans are divided politically into dwarfs and runners, green and yellow podded. Among the new yellow podded are the Ventura Wonder Wax, Refuge Wax, Kidney Wax and Wax. Among the green podded ones are the Stringless Green Pods and the Kentucky Wonder, which is only surpassed by the Canadian Wonder, Early Mowhawk. Lazy Wife has pods six inches long and correspondingly tender; the Speckled Cranberry is also a good bean. You ought to have some Limas, both bush and climbing. King of the Garden Lima thinks it is entitled to greater consideration; the Large Lima matures a little later than the King and gets the last round of applause. Perhaps you had better try some of the American Wonder peas, as the season is advancing; they hug the ground closer and are good bearers, the pods are not as long as Hero, Strategem or Telephone, any of which are good. If you get a good raise on the "edible podded" you may like them, but some we have tried forgot to get all the strings out of the pods and taste a little as though the chef had flavored them with very slippery soap.

Get out some asparagus roots for next year's crop, plant all sorts of melons, squash and pumpkins, cucumbers and gherkins, kale and kohl rabi, parsley and herbs; be sure and plant some sage and dill for your pickles, and begin over again with the small fry, like radish, cress, spinach—New Zealand spinach is good. Keep planting potatoes and sweet potatoes, small fruits, strawberries in particular; it was cold for a long time, but now in good, sandy, well-manured soil you will get early returns. Put berry plants in as soon as possible and finish up the deciduous tree planting. Plenty time yet for oranges and lemons and all the citrous group, and evergreens like to be transplanted best in warm, sunny weather. Keep the rake and cultivator going and the top soil well pulverized. You will get another light rain in April, but keep your soil open to receive all that comes. Irrigate in rows close to the plants with a slow, soaking stream rather than wet the whole ground.

¶ Newcomers in San Diego will need The California Garden to teach them the difference between Eastern and Western Gardening. ¶ ¶

Preliminary Premium List for Spring Rose Show

For the guidance of those considering exhibiting at the Spring Rose Show to be given by the San Diego Floral Association at the end of April, the following preliminary list of classes is repeated:

CLASS 1—FOR AMATEURS.

Best collection of roses, not less than 12 varieties, and three flowers of each sort; Best collection or roses of six varieties, six flowers of each sort; Best collection of six varieties of hybrid roses, three flowers of each sort; Best ten white roses; Best ten pink roses; Best ten red roses; Best ten yellow roses. Best novelty, or new rose, not over ten flowers. Best collection of climbing roses, not over six flowers of each sort; Best arranged basket of roses by any amateur (medium-sized basket).

CLASS 2—FOR PROFESSIONALS.

Best collection of 25 sorts of roses, not less than three nor more than six of each sort; Best collection of climbing roses, not over six blooms; Best 12 red roses; Best 12 yellow roses. Handsomest vase of roses, not over 25 blooms; Best single rose bush; Best 25 varieties of growing rose bushes in bloom.

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Best collection of roses exhibited by any one public school. Not over three flowers of each variety.

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Best collection of wild flowers (not over 12 blooms of a sort) exhibited by any school. Flowers to be named as far as possible.

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One page	$10.00
One-half page	5.00
One-quarter page	2.50
One-eighth page	1.50

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March Regular Meeting

The San Diego Floral Association met with Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Blochman at their residence on First and Thorn the evening of the 8th March. Many regular attendants were either at the Association booth at the Made in San Diego Fair or so worn out with their exertions there, as to be unable to be at the meeting. In spite of this there was a good attendance. It was announced that the Association was now duly incorporated, but no one seemed to feel any particular difference therefore. The subject of discussion was Narcissus which was ably introduced by L. A. Blochman who illustrated his remarks with specimens from his own garden and others sent by K. O. Sessions. It is to be feared that the members took more interest in the Blochman garden than the meeting, and truly it has taken to itself since the association last met there, a system of pergolas, belvideres and greenhouses with fountain and electric light effects that certainly show one member of the Floral Association to be a great deal more than a theorist. Delicious refreshments closed a most pleasant evening so far as this reporter was concerned, but when he left a regular promenade was still going on under the electric lights of the pergola.

April Regular Meeting

The Floral Association will hold its regular April meeting the evening of the 12th, Tuesday, with Mr. and Mrs. M. German at their home corner of Third and Fir Sts. Final arrangements for the Rose Show will be in order, and moreover the meeting will be in the nature of a farewell to that hospitable house. It is reported that the Germans have sold and intend to build embodying in their plans an assembly hall for Floral and Playground Associations and the like.

Owing to the indisposition of Miss K. O. Sessions, no out-of-town meeting was held this month at her nursery. The Floral Association cannot afford to have Miss Sessions on the sick list and she is hereby notified to get well with all possible speed. Latest bulletins describe her as beginning to disregard the advice of both friends and doctor, which we may be forgiven for interpreting to be a return to normal conditions.

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To promote knowledge of Floriculture.
To stimulate the intelligent love of flowers.
To beautify the house, school and public grounds of San Diego.
To hold flower exhibitions.
To exploit the geniality of this section from the point of view of the lover of flowers.
And all such other matters as may properly pertain to such an Association.

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